

INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Landing Craft of the Polish Navy	DATE DISTR.	17 February 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Polish Navy has four types of landing craft: 25X1
  - a. Large landing barge (BDD - Barka Desantowa Duza)
  - b. Medium landing barge (BDS - Barka Desantowa Srednia)
  - c. Small landing barge (BDM - Barka Desantowa Mala)
  - d. Landing craft for personnel (Lodz Desantowa)
2. The bases for the naval landing craft are: 25X1
  - a. Swinoujscie (Swinemuende): Ten barges in the Coal Basin and five in the Winter Basin, making a total of 15 BDD and BDS barges. The BDS's were there in 1953 and the BDD's appeared early in 1954 when landing barge units were formed. Officers appointed to these units in January 1954 included: Lt. Ongiewski, commander of the Landing Barge Division, formerly commander of the 1st Minesweeper Division, and 2nd Lt. Josef Tomczak commanding a landing barge, formerly commanding a minesweeper. About seven other officers were also transferred from the minesweeper flotilla.
  - b. Dziwnow (Dievenow).
  - c. Gdynia and, in the summer, Hel.
3. The three landing barge divisions are composed of three barges each:
  - a. 1st Division: 2 large barges and 1 small. (The two large landing barges of this division were attached to the Minesweeper Flotilla, but during exercises at sea they sailed with their own division.)
  - b. 2nd Division: 2 medium barges and 1 small.
  - c. 3rd Division: 3 medium barges.
4. The large landing barges (see Sketch No. 1) have the following characteristics:
  - a. Russian type, covered in iron. Thickness of plating: about 5 mm.
  - b. Removable roof of galvanized sheet iron.
  - c. Length of barge: about 40 m. Beam: 5-6 m.

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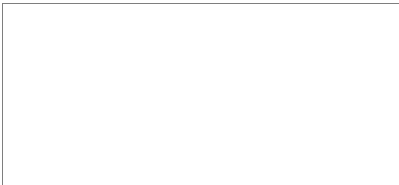
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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- d. Speed: 6-8 knots.
  - e. Engines: two 150 hp (approximately) Russian 3D 6 type.
  - f. Dynamo and accumulators for the starter and emergency lighting.
  - g. Engine-room personnel: four mechanics (two shifts), one electrician and one artificer.
  - h. Outside, on the port side, there is a motor fire-pump which is also used for baling.
  - i. Capacity: four medium tanks or one heavy tank of the Stalin type or three infantry companies.
  - j. The bottom of the barge is covered with duck-boarding.
  - k. These large landing barges are built in Torun.
5. The medium landing barges (see Sketch No. 2) have the following characteristics:
- a. These are German barges and are no longer made in Poland.
  - b. Thickness of plating: about 5 mm.
  - c. Length: about 30 m.
  - d. Beam: about 5 m.
  - e. Speed: about 6 knots.
  - f. Engines: two.
  - g. Capacity: four small tanks or two or three infantry companies.
  - h. Crew's quarters (10 bunks) and galley are below the wheelhouse.
  - i. Troops embark over the sides as there is no cat-walk.
6. The small landing barges are described as follows:
- a. These are of the same design as medium landing barges and are built either in the Torun or Tczew shipyard.
  - b. They are shorter than the medium landing barges and the ramp in the bow is higher.
  - c. Capacity: one tank and one infantry company.
  - d. Speed: 6-8 knots.
  - e. They are stationed at Gdynia except in the summer when they move to Hel.
7. The landing craft (personnel) (see Sketch No. 3) have the following characteristics:
- a. These are newly-built wooden craft.
  - b. Length: about 12 m.
  - c. Speed: over 12 knots.
  - d. Capacity: about 40 men.
  - e. Crew: one helmsman stationed on the bridge in the bow. The steering wheel and rudder are in the superstructure, about 60 cm. above the side of the craft.
  - f. Ten of these craft are berthed at the Divers' Wharf in the port of Gdynia.
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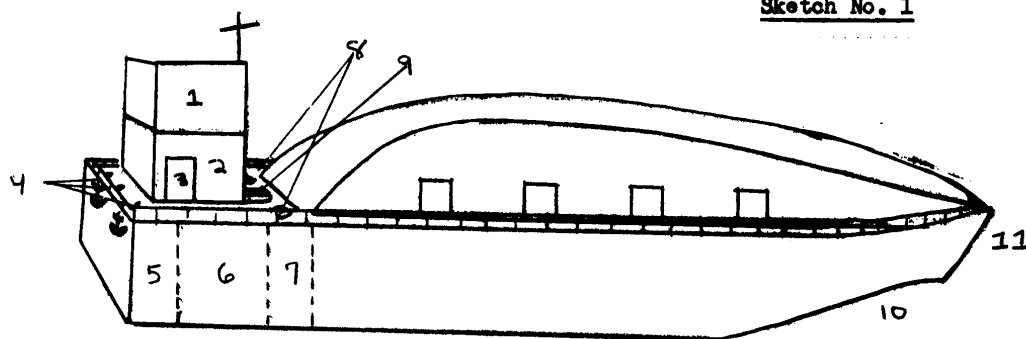
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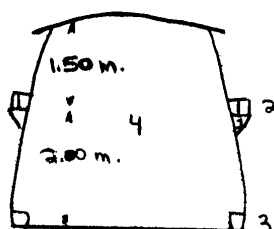
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Sketch No. 1

Large Landing Barge



Cross Section

Legend to Sketch No. 1

1. Wheelhouse.
2. W/T cabin; entrance from the port side. This is also the entrance for the crew.
3. Entrance to engine room.
4. Lead-in to fuel tanks.
5. Engine room.
6. Crew's quarters; two cabins with eight bunks. Commander's cabin and galley are also below deck aft.
7. Water and fuel tanks.
8. Bed plate for two 12 mm heavy machine guns.
9. Bed plate about 1 m. in diameter for 85 mm. gun (similar to that on the DELFIN).
10. Cat-walk round the sides with about six movable rails on each side to enable troops to embark. Iron ladders are fixed at these points. The space under the cat-walk inside the barge is used for storage room and has a number of doors.
11. Hinged ramp.

Key to Cross Section.

1. Gangway around the sides.
2. Railing.
3. Projections (40 cm.).
4. Small doors inside.

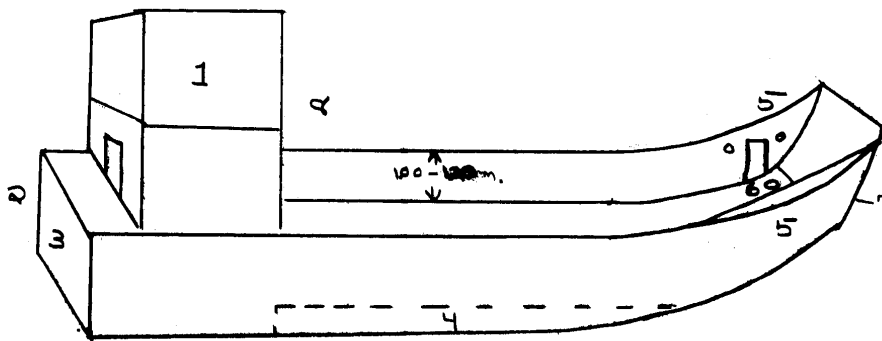
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Sketch No. 2



Medium Landing Barge

Legend to Sketch No. 2

1. Wheelhouse.
2. Anchor outside on port side.
3. Engine room.
4. Air chamber.
5. Two bunks, one above the other, on either side.
6. Bed plate for a heavy machine gun.
7. Hinged ramp, the outer wall of which contains holes to let water in.
8. Entrance for crew.

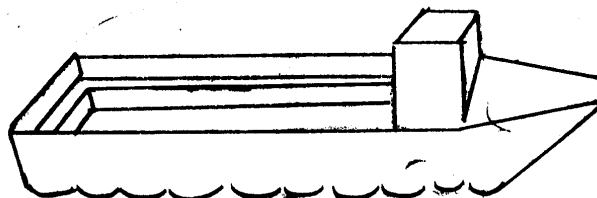
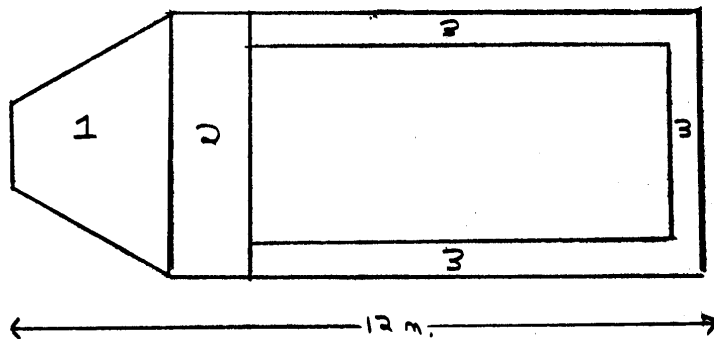
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Sketch No. 3



Landing Craft

Legend to Sketch No. 3

1. Enclosed engine.
2. Superstructure.
3. Benches. These provide seating for some of the troops; the rest stand.

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